

local communities to raise awareness about the rights, needs, and concerns of victims and survivors of crime.

# PERSONAL EXPLANATION

## HON. TULSI GABBARD

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 7, 2014*

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, from January 6, 2014 through January 17, 2014, I was in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, reporting for mandatory annual National Guard training. I missed rollcall votes Nos. 1–23. Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 1: "Present"—On Quorum Call of the House.

Rollcall No. 2: "yes"—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 724.

Rollcall No. 3: "yes"—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 3527.

Rollcall No. 4: "yes"—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3628.

Rollcall No. 5: "no"—Ordering the Previous Question.

Rollcall No. 6: "no"—On Agreeing to the Resolution H. Res. 455.

Rollcall No. 7: "yes"—Agreeing to the Sinema Amendment.

Rollcall No. 8: "yes"—Agreeing to the Tonko Amendment.

Rollcall No. 9: "yes"—On Motion to Recommit with Instructions.

Rollcall No. 10: "no"—On Passage of H.R. 2279.

Rollcall No. 11: "yes"—Final Passage of H.R. 3811.

Rollcall No. 12: "yes"—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 1513.

Rollcall No. 13: "yes"—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass S. 230.

Rollcall No. 14: "yes"—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 2274.

Rollcall No. 15: "yes"—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 801.

Rollcall No. 16: "yes"—On Approving the Journal.

Rollcall No. 17: "yes"—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 2860.

Rollcall No. 18: "yes"—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 1233.

Rollcall No. 19: "no"—On Ordering the Previous Question.

Rollcall No. 20: "no"—On Agreeing to the Resolution H. Res. 458.

Rollcall No. 21: "yes"—Concurring in the Senate Amendments with an Amendment on H.R. 3547.

Rollcall No. 22: "yes"—On Motion to Recommit with Instructions.

Rollcall No. 23: "no"—On Passage of H.R. 3362.

# TRIBUTE TO MIKE BANASIAK

## HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 7, 2014*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Mike Banasiak of

Legacy Financial Group for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Mike in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Banasiak for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Mike on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

# OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

## HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 7, 2014*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,555,437,713,940.26. We've added \$6,928,560,665,027.18 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

# THE INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO DIRECT THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO CONDUCT A RESOURCES STUDY TO DETERMINE THE SUITABILITY AND FEASIBILITY OF ENTERING INTO PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS TO OPERATE FEDERALLY OWNED GOLF COURSES IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

## HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 7, 2014*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to introduce a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a resources study to determine the suitability and feasibility of entering into public-private partnerships to operate federally owned golf courses in the District of Columbia. The three golf courses—Langston Golf Course, Rock Creek Golf Course and East Potomac Golf Course—are owned by the National Park Service (NPS). The courses have long been in desperate need of capital invest-

ment to reverse decades of deterioration and to maintain and preserve their historic features. From the time Congress created the first of the courses in the 1920s, they have been underfunded. The major reason is that NPS has continued to operate the courses under concession contracts even though concession contracts do not allow for the significant annual capital improvements necessary for golf courses. The concessions approach to operating golf courses has led to an inevitable declining state of repair.

East Potomac Golf Course was built in 1920 and included three courses that accommodated all levels of play, with an 18-hole course and two 9-hole courses. East Potomac was initially segregated, with African Americans permitted to play only on Mondays. The course was desegregated in 1941 by the then-Secretary of the Interior, Harold Ickes, following pressure from an African-American women's golf club, the Wake Robin Golf Club. However, Langston Golf Course opened in 1939 as a segregated course for African-Americans, and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Langston was the home course for the Royal Golf Club and the Wake Robin Golf Club, the Nation's first clubs for African American men and women golfers, respectively. Langston, named for John Mercer Langston, the first African-American elected to Congress from Virginia in 1888, was originally a 9-hole course. Langston's expansion to an 18-hole course began in 1955, but was not completed until the mid-1980s. Rock Creek Golf Course opened in 1923 as a 9-hole course and an additional nine holes were added to it in 1926. None of the courses have been modernized, all three have fallen into disrepair, and all lack the amenities necessary to serve the public today.

My bill would direct the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of NPS, to conduct a special resources study to determine the suitability and feasibility of entering into public-private partnerships with a non-Federal entity or entities to operate the courses. The study would assume that one of the three golf courses will be a world-class, tournament-quality public course, with playing fees commensurate with such courses. The other two courses would be public courses of substantially similar quality to top-ranked courses owned by cities, towns, counties and states. The playing fees for these other two courses would remain the same as they are on the date of enactment of the bill, indexed annually to the Consumer Price Index. The study would also determine which course would be best suitable as the world-class, tournament-quality public course.

The three courses together constitute a magnificent but underutilized public asset that could be renovated and modernized, facilitating affordable recreation, attracting significantly more golfers and generating revenue to maintain the courses. Unlike other NPS facilities, golf courses require significant, continuing capital investment for maintenance. The current fees collected from patrons at the courses, which are established in the concessions contracts, must remain affordable and therefore do not generate sufficient revenue for NPS or the concessioners to properly maintain the courses.

Because the public golf courses in the Nation's capital are in such poor condition and are in need of a different and better means of